

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-07 EB-08 TRSE-00 AGRE-00
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DRAFTED BY COMM/NOAA/NMFS: J R BROOKER:RC
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M KRAVANJA
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TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:EFIS, GW, BE, DA, UK, FR, IT

SUBJECT:NMFS EXPORT INSPECTION OF FISHERY PRODUCTS

1. THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS), NOAA, COMMERCE HAS RECEIVED, DURING THE ,AST SEVERAL YEARS, A NUMBER OF SERIOUS AND SUBSTANTIATED COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE QUALITY AND CONDITION OF U.S. EXPORTS OF FROZEN FISHERY PRODUCTS. THE SEAFOOD QUALITY AND INSPECTION DIVISION OF THE NMFS IS HOPING TO CONTRIBUTE TO INCREASED U.S. SEAFOOD EXPORTS BY ASSURING THAT THE PRODUCTS COMPLY WITH THE VARIOUS IMPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF THE PURCHASING COUNTRIES.
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2. OUR INITIAL EFFORTS ARE BEING DIRECTED AT FRANCE, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, BELGIUM, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM. THESE 4 COUNTRIES PURCHASE ABOUT 45 MILLION POUNDS OF FROZEN FISH EACH YEAR, MUCH OF IT SALMON.

3. THE NMFS PLANS TO SEND TWO OF ITS OFFICIALS TO THESE 4

COUNTRIES TO MEET WITH GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES AND TO OBTAIN A FIRST-HAND UNDERSTANDING OF PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH ACCEPTANCE OF U.S. SEAFOOD EXPORTS. THEY ARE: MR. JAMES R. BROOKER, STAFF SPECIALIST, SEAFOOD QUALITY AND INSPECTION DIVISION, WASHINGTON, D.C., AND MR. CARL YRANT, FISH INSPECTOR, WESTERN INSPECTION OFFICE, BELL, CALIFORNIA. THEY WILL ALSO EXPLAIN TO THEIR EUROPEAN COUNTERPARTS HOW NMFS INSPECTION SERVICES MAY BE USED TO RESOLVE MANY OF THESE PROBLEMS.

4. BELOW IS THE LIST OF TOPICS WHICH MAY BE COVERED DURING THESE TALKS:

A. GENERAL IMPORT REQUIREMENTS OF THE 4 COUNTRIES. NMFS NEEDS TO KNOW WHAT ARE THE DETAILED TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS, THE TYPES AND KINDS OF IMPORTATION CERTIFICATES REQUIRED/PREFERRED, WHAT ARE THE AVAILABLE FOLLOW-UP PROCEDURES WHEN PRODUCTS OF QUESTIONABLE QUALITY OR CONDITION ARE FOUND, AND WHO (PERSONS AND AGENCIES) ARE THE KEY CONTACTS FOR SEAFOOD IMPORTS IN EACH COUNTRY.

B. SPECIFIC PRODUCT IMPORT REQUIREMENTS. WHAT ARE THE TECHNICAL PROVISIONS THAT SPECIFIC PRODUCTS MUST COMPLY WITH, SUCH AS: LABELING, WEIGHTS, COMPOSITION, QUALITY, AND IDENTITY. ARE ANY LABORATORY ANALYSES FOR CONTAMINANTS REQUIRED, AND WHAT ARE THE TOLERANCES?
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C. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (DOC) INSPECTION SERVICES. A DETAILED EXPLANATION WILL BE GIVEN OF AVAILABLE NMFS INSPECTION SERVICES, THE KINDS OF STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS NMFS USES, INCLUDING CODEX STANDARDS, ANALYTICAL LABORATORY SERVICES, PLANT/SANITATION SERVICES, AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS. NMFS ALSO PLANS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION PACKETS TO KEY PERSONS/AGENCIES VISITED. IT WILL ALSO BE IMPORTANT TO LEARN WHAT NMFS CAN DO TO MAKE ITS TOTAL SERVICES AND CERTIFICATES AS MEANINGFUL AS POSSIBLE FOR FOREIGN BUYERS.

D. LOT INSPECTION OF IMPORTED SEAFOODS. LLOYDS OF LONDON QUESTIONED INSURANCE COVERAGE AND HOW THAT RELATES TO TOTAL OR PARTIAL REJECTIONS OF U.S. SEAFOOD EXPORT UPON ARRIVAL, AND HOW DO SUCH ACTIONS AFFECT CLAIMS. A VISIT TO LLOYDS IS PLANNED TO EXPLAIN AVAILABLE DOC INSPECTION SERVICES FOR U.S. IMPORTS OF SEAFOOD PRODUCTS. NMFS WILL ALSO TRY TO SUGGEST WAYS IN WHICH ITS SERVICES COULD BE BENEFICIAL IN FOREIGN SEAFOOD TRADE.

5. THE TENTATIVE DATES FOR THE TRIP ARE APRIL 9-15, 1978.

BROOKER AND GRANT WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN THEIR VISIT IN THE WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WITH A STOP IN COPENHAGEN TO DISCUSS WITH THE REGIONAL FISHERIES ATTACHE THE TRIP AND TO RECEIVE ANY ASSISTANCE OR ADVICE.

6. FOR COPENHAGEN ONLY. ANY COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE WOULD BE APPRECIATED. IF YOU KNOW PERSONALLY ANY OF THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN THE 4 COUNTRIES OR THE APPROPRIATE AGENCIES TO VISIT, NMFS WOULD APPRECIATE THEIR NAMES, ADDRESSES, AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS.

7. DETAILED TRI, SCHEDULE TO THE REMAINING 4 POSTS WILL BE GIVEN AS SOON AS THE FINAL PLANS ARE FORMALIZED. BROOKER WILL CONTINUE TO ROME FOR A MEETING OF THE CODEX UNCLASSIFIED

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ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION, APRIL 17-28, 1978. VANCE

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